



# U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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## WATERFOWL CENSUS WORK ENTHUSIASTICALLY SUPPORTED

The monthly waterfowl censuses being directed by the Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, are being carried forward vigorously, and enthusiastic support is being given to the work by individuals and associations interested in the perpetuation of the wild fowl of the country, according to announcement just made by Paul G. Redington, chief of the Biological Survey. The next census will be taken at selected points in the United States, Alaska, and Canada on November 12, 1927. The results of the censuses already taken--in August, September, and October--are being classified and studied. More than 2,000 sportsmen and other conservationists, including many State officials, are now enrolled as voluntary census takers, and the widespread interest in the undertaking is constantly producing new volunteers who can identify the various species of ducks, geese, swans, and coots, which are the birds now being reported.

To enlist further cooperation and to note conditions on wild-fowl concentration areas, Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, an ornithologist of the Biological Survey, has recently visited many of the concentration areas of waterfowl about the Great Lakes and in the region drained by the Mississippi and its tributaries and points as far west as Montana, Wyoming, and Utah, and this fall will visit the principal waterfowl areas in the Southeastern States, from Virginia to Florida.

Among the more important waterfowl grounds inspected were the St. Clair Flats, in Michigan; lakes in the Flathead Valley and near Helena, in Montana; the Bear River marshes and other marshes on the shores of Great Salt Lake and other lakes in Utah; lakes, streams, and reservoirs in Colorado, Wyoming, Missouri, and Arkansas; the middle portion of the Illinois River, in Illinois; and Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee.

One of the most encouraging features of the census program is the cordiality shown by the game conservation authorities and sportsmen's clubs in the various States where its purposes have been explained. Assistance offered by these organizations ranges all the way from obtaining qualified volunteer observers to tendering the services of game wardens and assuming responsibility for the direction of the censuses on a State-wide scale. From the extent of the work and the cooperation offered, the series of monthly censuses are expected to add considerably to the accurate detailed knowledge of the movements, abundance, and needs of the waterfowl of North America.

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